

Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Minutes
Friday, February 18, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Members Present: Debbie Muñoz, Freddie Morales, Flux Neo, Gaby Rengifo, Elin Doval, Jorge Lozano, Esteban Nieto, Víctor Gómez, Carmen Williams, Aleyda Kasten, Jason Miyares, Beatriz Amberman, Charlotte Fritts, Kris Tilley-Lubbs, Michel Zajur, Gabe Rojas

Ex-Officio Members Present: Mirta Martin, Michael Eggleston, Jimmy Rhee

Liaison with Governor's Office: Duane Stafford

Guests Present: Harry Warner, Demas Boudreau, Maricel Quintana-Baker

Meeting called to order at 1:25 pm.

Welcome and opening remarks: Michel

Virginia War Memorial: Harry Warner, Executive Director of Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation 501-3C. 18,000 square feet, new facility. Mission: to teach about the sacrifice of war veterans from the Commonwealth engaged in all wars: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, 1st Persian Gulf, War of Terror. Virginians have held key roles in founding of country and in wars.

Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VAHLEN): Elin. Maricel Quintana-Baker is the founder of VAHLEN.Home. Scholar—organization that promotes higher education for minority groups. Seeking ways to get Hispanics as educators in higher education. 501C3 organization as of 2009. All volunteer. Mission:

- Create a network among higher education professionals and communities;
- Promote research and work among members;
 - Latino lecture series in 1st year
- Outreach:
 - Scholarships
 - Last year one scholarship for \$500. 75 applicants
 - This year one \$1000 and two \$500 scholarships.
 - Outreach to Latino youth and parents

Requests for VLAB members:

- Please help to spread the word about VAHLEN.
- Join us as members.
 - Encuentro, March 24-25, NOVA Community College, Annandale
 - \$100 for one-year membership and Encuentro and materials

Board History/Purpose: Michel, Duane, and Beatriz

- 2003 established by Gov. Warner as the Virginia Latino Advisory Commission
- 2005 became Virginia Latino Advisory Board
 - Advise Governor.
 - Serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - Charged with reaching out to the community to see different options and opinions.
 - Have looked at healthcare, education, immigration
 - Have held Town Hall meetings to bring the voice of the public to the Governor
- The Board consists of 21 citizen members, appointed by the Governor, 15 of whom must be of Latino descent.

Michel proposes looking at the community to think about what the vibrant immigrant community brings to the Commonwealth. Present the business aspects of the community. Focus on the following:

- International Trade
- Workforce Development/Education
- Small Business/Job Creation

Minutes:

Review and approval of minutes from December 10, 2020: After discussion, Charlotte moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Beatriz seconded the motion. The motion carried with one abstention.

Kris will send amended minutes to Duane and he will disseminate them. She will also send the Oct. 6 minutes although she was not present at that meeting.

Jorge made a motion that the agenda be amended to include discussions on the following:

- The formation of committees;
- The presence of legal counsel at meetings.

Virginia ranks #9 in number of Hispanic businesses. Twelve Fortune 500 companies in US located in Fairfax. In the US, Hispanic businesses are growing 3 times faster than non-Hispanic businesses. In VA, growing 20 times faster. How can we create jobs to establish VA as the new Miami?

The committees listed on the agenda are the three committees indicated by the Governor, based on the list of committees Duane presented from the Board from the December 10 meeting:

- International Trade
- Workforce Development/Education
- Small Business/Job Creation

Discussion regarding whether national and international should be joined. Jimmy Rhee, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade, pointed out that international trade is long term and can be slow to establish. Small business is shorter term. How can we work to create synergy rather than chaos? If we concentrate on work force development, job creation can result.

Elin: Each committee should have an education piece.

Gaby: Think about bringing in international business to come here and create jobs. Then think of the educational resources necessary to fill the created jobs.

Beatriz: Need to have a piece of paper with the three committees listed. People put names under the area where they would like to work.

Mirta: Education is a priority for this Governor. He has five priorities:

- Access to education;
- Affordability;
- Job retention;
- Job creation;
- 100,000 new degrees.

Michel: These three committees are recommendations, but there should be no more than three.

Jorge: Trade and business should be together.

Duane: Further explained the three areas of concentration (International Trade, Workforce Development/Education, and Small Business/Job Creation).

Flux: Leave these three committees, but create subsets within these committees.

Gaby: Put small business and international business together.

Freddie: Not interested in immigration. Interested in job creation. His family is here.

Michel: Reminder that we are appointed for four years, but these committees are only for this year. What can we deliver in one year with only three remaining meetings?

Aleyda: What has VLAB done in the past?

Kris: Read the following from the 2009 report to the Governor:

The Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB) serves as a conduit to carry two-way information between the Latino population and the Office of the Governor. VLAB's mission is to inform the Governor about issues affecting the Latino community as well as to inform the Latino community regarding government initiatives, state services, and available resources. In order to perform this mission in 2009, VLAB planned, organized, and implemented six town hall meetings that were held in six geographical regions of the state: Northern Virginia, Roanoke, Eastern Shore, Charlottesville, Shenandoah, and Richmond. Strategies were developed and evaluated throughout the process, with the ultimate goal of engaging the Latino community, both in terms of established community leaders and of community members whose voices are not often part of discussions about the community. VLAB members representing these areas worked in committees to provide the venues, as well as to publicize and facilitate for the town hall meetings. Members from other regions across the state attended the meetings as well to demonstrate support for the community. Each meeting had its own character, reflecting the community members

who assisted and attended the meetings, but all had in common a desire to address the needs of the community as perceived by the community members.

This report has three principal components: 1) an introduction to the strategies and methodologies used in facilitating the town hall meetings; 2) a report on each individual town hall meeting, including the concerns and recommendations voiced at each meeting; and 3) final recommendations for the Governor, representing the aggregated data from the six meetings. The data are compelling and represent the voices of a cross-section of the Latino community in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Below is a summary of the recommendations from the town hall meetings, representing the salient topics that emerged from the meetings: 1) public safety; 2) health and human services; 3) education; and 4) immigration (available in complete form at <http://www.vlab.virginia.gov/Publications/reports.cfm>).

Jorge: Would the Governor be amenable to recommendations for fact findings delegations to Latin America to investigate possibilities for developing international businesses in the Commonwealth?

Duane: The Secretary of Commerce and Trade may be interested in such recommendations.

Debbie: We can do nothing about immigration at a federal level. We can work on job creation.

Flux made a motion that we consider the following as committees:

<p>Workforce Development/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Housing • Education 	<p>Small Business/Job Creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Immigration • Business 	<p>International Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business • International • National
<p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte • Kris • Gabriel • Aleyda • Esteban • Federico 	<p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaby • Flux • Jason • Elin • Beatriz • Carmen 	<p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debbie • Beatriz • Victor • Carmen • Jorge • Aleyda • Gaby

Beatriz seconded the motion. The vote carried to consider these committees.

Workforce Development/Education (Report from the committee):

Assess possibilities for workforce development:

- ESL education
- Job training and readiness—high school and community college
- Reciprocal licensing and credentialing
- Higher education

What workforce development is available?

To whom is it available?

This committee will meet on April 29 at 11:30, prior to the VLAB meeting at 1:00 pm.

Someone from each group will send Duane information regarding when the committee meeting will be held.

Due dates:

- We plan to have a report for the Governor by December on the projects completed by VLAB.
- Committee reports are due in September.
- Feel free to share plans before then for feedback.

Duane will send out rules regarding committee meetings. He will also send contact information.

Jimmy is willing to join committee meetings, even if they involve travel.

Jorge: Can VLAB members set up meetings with companies as a VLAB representative if there is an opportunity for international trade? Can VLAB members have cards made?

Kris: We are not authorized to speak on behalf of VLAB. We are not surrogates of the Governor. Kris read from the following to underscore the role of members. She read the powers and duties of board members:

§ [2.2-2460](#). *Powers and duties; acceptance of gifts and grants.*

A. The Board shall have the power and duty to:

- 1. Advise the Governor regarding the development of economic, professional, cultural, educational, and governmental links between the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Latino community in Virginia, and Latin America;*
- 2. Undertake studies, symposiums, research, and factual reports to gather information to formulate and present recommendations to the Governor relative to issues of concern and importance to the Latino community in the Commonwealth; and*
- 3. Advise the Governor as needed regarding any statutory, regulatory, or other issues of importance to the Latino community in the Commonwealth.*

B. The Board may apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources to enable it to carry out its objectives
(<http://www.vlab.virginia.gov/Publications/reports.cfm>).

Duane: If there is an opportunity for international trade with a company, you should include Commerce and Trade in the discussions. They may have incentives that no one else has the ability to offer.

Beatriz: You can use the VLAB logo on cards, but not to speak as a representative of VLAB.

Duane: Committees can meet, but they must have physical meetings (no conference call meetings). The meetings also must be published on the public calendar at least two weeks in advance.

Roundtable Discussion

Announcements

- Elin: Mirta Martin featured in a magazine about Hispanic educators.
- Beatriz: Hispanic Gala Fundraising Event, Thursday, April 14, 2011.
- Gaby: Nuestra Feria in Hampton Road, May 21 at Saint Gregory's Church
- Beatriz: All anti-immigrant bills defeated in Legislature except for e-verify bill and cancelation of driver's licenses of people who have been deported.

Adjournment: Elin made the motion to adjourn at 4:10 p.m.. Charlotte seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Tilley-Lubbs